

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding two missed votes on March 4, 2014.

"Yes" on H.R. 3370, Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act.

"Yes" on H. Res. 488, Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence.

**ALEXSANDER HAY****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander Hay for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Hay is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Hay is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexander Hay for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING A.H. PARKER HIGH SCHOOL AS ALABAMA'S CLASS 5A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS 2014

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, continuing in the tradition of the "District of Champions," I rise today to honor the A.H. Parker High School Thundering Herd on winning the 2014 State of Alabama title in the 5A State Basketball Championship—the first state title since 1975. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, I pay tribute to the Thundering Herd for their exemplary athleticism and teamwork as well as the outstanding leadership of Head Coach Reggie McGary and his coaching staff. We are extremely proud of these young men!

Parker's championship victory capped off an extraordinary season of 23 wins and 6 losses. Coach McGary credited his team's success to the leadership of his assistant coach, Randal Smith. According to McGary, Smith's persistence in stressing the importance of defense was the team's key to victory. Throughout the

championship game, Smith demanded that his defensive players bring their best to the court.

To earn their spot in the championship game, Parker High School dominated their opponents during the Steele City Invitational Tournament last December. The Thundering Herd faced its rival Ramsay High School to clinch the state title on March 1, 2014. During the championship game, the thundering herd played with the same skill and intensity that sustained them throughout the season. The team was celebrated for their consistent ability to defensively shutdown their opponents. Their strategy was no different when they competed for the state title as the Thundering Herd held Ramsey to just six points during the third quarter.

Although the team trailed 23–20 with 2:17 left in the first half, they would not allow their opponent to score again until the end of the third quarter. Senior Marquell Olivier led Parker with 15 points and nine rebounds while Omani Williams served as a defensive force for the team. Alontae Johnson also contributed nine points to the Thundering Herd's 56–46 victory. The win occurred on the 50th anniversary of the Thundering Herd's 1964 National Black High School Championship won at Tennessee State University.

As the daughter of a high school basketball coach, I know this decisive victory is the result of the tremendous efforts of both the players and coaching staff of A.H. Parker High School. The exemplary leadership and dedicated support from the coaching staff was a major factor in the success of the Thundering Herd. I commend Head Coach Reggie McGary and assistant coach Randal Smith and I am so proud of all they have accomplished.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the accomplishments of the A.H. Parker High School Boys Basketball Team for their victory in the Class 5A Alabama State Championship.

Congratulations! Go Bisons!

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 28, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 86 (on agreeing to the Cummings Amendment to H.R. 899),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 87 (on agreeing to the Connolly Amendment to H.R. 899),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 88 (on agreeing to the Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 899),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 89 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 899 with instructions), and

"No" on rollcall vote No. 90 (on passage of H.R. 899).

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH HEIM HASKELL

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative MORGAN GRIFFITH, I sub-

mit these remarks to commemorate the life of Elizabeth Heim Haskell, who passed away February 11, 2014.

Mrs. Haskell was a pillar in her community and across the Commonwealth. She ran her own environmental consulting firm for nine years and authored many books and articles on the environment. She served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Air Pollution Control Board. She then served as Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources under Governor Douglas Wilder.

After completing her term, Mrs. Haskell returned to Martinsville to work in her family's newspaper business as the director and vice president of The Martinsville Bulletin. She became involved with local civics, serving four years on the Martinsville City Council. She also was a member of the New College Planning Commission and then New College Institute's Board of Directors, where she promoted her firm belief in the important role of higher education in the area's economy. For her many contributions, particularly her work to further higher education in Southwest Virginia, the Virginia General Assembly named Mrs. Haskell the Outstanding Virginian in 2005.

Elizabeth Haskell exemplified commitment to bettering the lives of all Virginians. She will long be remembered for her distinguished service. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert H. Haskell III, and is survived by her son, Andrew Haskell of Morristown, N.J., three grandchildren, Chase Winn Haskell, Catherine Antoinette Haskell, and Harrison Robert Haskell, and her brother, Henry C. Heim of Gig Harbor, Washington.

Congressman GRIFFITH and I note with great sadness the loss of Elizabeth Haskell, a prominent leader in the Martinsville community and all of Virginia.

THE OCCASION OF MAJOR ALEX CROSS' RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**HON. JOHN KLINE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Major Alex Cross, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement. My colleagues and I have had the pleasure of working with Major Cross over the past three years, to include his service as part of my congressional staff and later as the Deputy Director of the USMC Liaison Office in the United States House of Representatives.

From his arrival in January of 2011, Major Cross was a valuable member of my legislative team. Major Cross represented the Marine Corps with honor while providing expertise on Marine Corps programs and policies, and advising me on issues ranging from defense authorization to foreign affairs. Major Cross's work on my personal staff culminated in his recommended changes to Department of Defense recruitment policies signed into law in the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act that resulted in expanded opportunities for students of all educational backgrounds to join the Armed Forces.

From 2012 to 2014, Major Cross served as Deputy Director of the USMC House Liaison Office. During his time in the House Liaison Office, Major Cross planned, led, and executed many of the Marine Corps' most difficult